

SAYS GRAFT WAS TRIED IN CORONERS' OFFICE

Widower Gets After ex-Coroner Bausch, Chief Clerk.

FEE ASKED FOR PROPERTY

By an "Investigator" Whom Bausch
Sent—Coroners Warn Clerk to
be More Discreet.

A matter which the Board of Coroners yesterday decided to regard merely as an "indiscretion" on the part of their chief clerk, ex-Coroner Jacob E. Bausch, is being investigated by Acting District Attorney Nott and Assistant District Attorney Cardozo. Both of these officials are inclined to regard the matter more seriously, although they admit that there are exculpating circumstances.

The investigation is the result of a sworn complaint made to Mr. Nott by William B. Greenbaum, President of the Neversink Distilling Company and a resident of the Hotel Bartholdi. Mr. Greenbaum's wife was run over and killed by a street car on Feb. 3 at Twenty-second Street and Broadway. While still alive she was carried into the office of the American Express Company, at Broadway and Twenty-first Street.

Seeing that the unconscious woman wore a quantity of apparently valuable jewelry and that the place was packed with curious people, Manager F. L. Roberts took all the jewelry for safekeeping. That night he turned it over to the police, and from them it passed into the hands of Bausch.

On Feb. 5 Mr. Greenbaum went to the Coroners' office to get the property that had belonged to his wife, whose body he had identified at Bellevue Hospital the day before. He was told by Property Clerk Tyndale that he must be vouched for before the jewelry could be delivered to him and that a letter from the undertaker in charge of the burial would do.

Later in the day Mr. Greenbaum returned with his dead wife's brother, Lawyer Edward J. Welch of Boston, and brought a letter from the Stephen Merritt Burial Company. Bausch received him and declared that the letter was not sufficient. Protests on the part of Greenbaum failed to change the attitude of the chief clerk.

According to Greenbaum's complaint, Bausch said:

"I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll send a man up to your home to investigate. He can get all the facts and report them to me. If he says it is all right, it is all right. That man will not cost you more than \$15 or \$20."

Mr. Greenbaum continued to protest, introducing his brother-in-law, who is also his counsel, and telling what Tyndale had said.

"Well, that does not matter," Greenbaum alleges that Bausch replied. "Tyndale has not the say as to what is required. This is the way we have got to do things, and that's all there is to it."

It was finally arranged that Mr. Greenbaum should be in his rooms at the Hotel Bartholdi at 3 o'clock Tuesday afternoon. At that time a man who introduced himself as Joseph Barnett appeared with a letter alleged to be from Bausch. The letter said, simply:

"This is the man I spoke of."

Greenbaum swears Barnett spoke at length about his ability to straighten out the whole thing.

"What's to be your fee for all this?" Ma. Greenbaum says he finally asked, the reply being: "Twenty-five dollars."

"Who pays?" was the next question.

"The Coroners' Office?"

"Oh, no, not they," Barnett is alleged to have answered. "The parties whom I investigate have to pay."

Then Mr. Welch entered the room. Barnett was told that he would not get a cent. He left hastily. Mr. Greenbaum called up Mr. Nott, and later went down to the District Attorney's office.

When Bausch was called on by Mr. Nott to explain he admitted that the story told by the complainant was true in substance, but said he had neither intended nor done anything wrong. He repeated his explanation yesterday before the Board of Coroners, who held a meeting to investigate.

Bausch said that Barnett was a young lawyer whom he knew, and was anxious to help. Valuable property was involved, he said, and he wished to establish the identity of Mr. Greenbaum as carefully as possible. The best way to do so, he thought, was to send Barnett up to see the claimant at his home. Bausch called attention to the fact that he had received no money, and that if Barnett had got any money from Mr. Greenbaum none of it would have gone to him.

The Coroners ended the investigation by administering a rebuke and a warning to their chief clerk, telling him that if it happened again he would be dismissed.

Mr. Nott said last night that the fact that Bausch spoke openly in the presence of the Boston lawyer was an argument in favor of his innocence, but that even if his action was innocent in itself, it was against the law and too serious to be passed over so lightly. He will continue his investigation.

Bausch was elected a Coroner by Tammany, and served up to four years ago. He is from Leader Scully's district. As chief clerk he draws an annual salary of \$3,000. Search is being made for Barnett.